

Mary Lou Jones of Sanford has been a competitive tennis player for over 50 years and was ranked for several years as the No. 1 player in the South. From 1962 to 1998, Ms. Jones served in several capacities at St. Mary's College in Raleigh, including dean of students, chairman of the physical education department and tennis coach, where her team went undefeated for eight consecutive years. She received a Lifetime Sports Foundation Certificate of Achievement in 1968, was named to the North Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame in 1979 and received the Richard Stone Distinguished Service Award at St. Mary's in 1998. Since 1975, Miss Jones has been the director of the Mary Lou Jones Tennis Camp.

Olga M. Jones, a registered nurse for fifty years, directs the Martin County Alzheimer's Group Respite Program at the Senior Center in Williamston. The Oak City resident is a retired colonel of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, where she served for thirty years, including one stint as chief nurse at one U.S. Army Hospital. Since her Army retirement, she has worked as director of nursing at Robersonville's N.C. Community Hospital, been chairperson of the Martin County Hospice, and has worked with the American Red Cross and the Korean War Veteran's Association. She has also formed a partnership to manufacture apparel for populations needing special clothing, such as persons with disabilities.

Carolyn L. Hunt of Rock Ridge has been an icon of volunteerism and an inspiration to others. Her dedication to children's programs, education and humanitarian efforts began in Wilson County, where she was a member of the county school board. Currently her weekly volunteer efforts are based at Carnage Middle School and Hunter Elementary School in Raleigh, serving as a mentor to young children. A former elementary school teacher, she works with the Support Our Students and Communities in Schools programs and the Shepherd's Table in Raleigh. In 1979, she established the North Carolina Friendship Force, now called the North Carolina Center for International Understanding. Mrs. Hunt, married for 40 years to Gov. Jim Hunt, serves as the honorary chair of the N.C. Partnership for Children, which oversees the state's Smart Start program. In 1997 she received the Friend of Education Award from the Wake Education Partnership and the 4-H Lifetime Achievement Award. Her efforts toward children were also recognized in 1995 when she received the Jim & Carolyn Hunt Early Childhood Award.

Lisa Jan Parker* of Robersonville served as director of operations and earlier as director of boards and commission for the Governor's Office, where she worked to ensure that women were represented on boards and commissions and in the workplace in state government. As a former employee of Common Cause and the State Democratic Party, she assisted and empowered women across the state and improved the quality of political and financial reporting. Working quietly, often behind the scenes, she gave her all to ensure that women, minorities and young people would have an opportunity to learn to excel and serve, and encouraged young people to become involved in the political process. Her skills as a political fundraiser were without peer.